



LAIC2018

Liberal Arts International Conference
**Local Dreams, Global Visions:
Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives**

4-6 FEBRUARY 2018

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY *at* QATAR

Liberal Arts International Conference 2018 Schedule

Day 1 | Sunday, 4 February 2018

6:30 – 8 a.m.	Breakfast at Hotel
8 a.m.	Board Bus for Conference
8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	Registration and Coffee in area outside Lecture Hall 238
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks in Lecture Hall 238
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Keynote Address in Lecture Hall 238
10:45 – 11 a.m.	Coffee Break
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Parallel Session I in Conference Rooms
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch in Blue Area
1:30 – 3 p.m.	Parallel Session II in Conference Rooms
3 p.m.	Board Bus for Hotel

Day 2 | Monday, 5 February 2018

6:30 – 8 a.m.	Breakfast at Hotel
8 a.m.	Board Bus for Conference
8:30 – 9 a.m.	Coffee and Networking in area outside Lecture Hall 238
9 – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Address in Lecture Hall 238
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Parallel Session III in Conference Rooms
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch in Blue Area
1:15 – 3 p.m.	Parallel Session IV in Conference Rooms
3 p.m.	Board Bus for Hotel

Day 3 | Tuesday, 6 February 2018

6:30 – 8 a.m.	Breakfast at Hotel
8 a.m.	Board Bus for Conference
8:30 – 9 a.m.	Coffee and Networking in area outside Lecture Hall 238
9 – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Address in Lecture Hall 238
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Parallel Session V in Conference Rooms
12:15 – 12:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Conference Wrap-Up
12:30 p.m.	Board Bus for Hotel



DAY 1 | Sunday, 4 February

Registration (8:30 – 9:15 a.m.) Area outside Lecture Hall 238

Welcome and Opening Remarks (9:15 – 9:30 a.m.) Lecture Hall 238

Keynote Address (9:30 – 10:45 a.m.) Lecture Hall 238

Of Infrastructures and Friction Points: Examining the Dynamics of International Online Education in the Age of Globalization

Kirk St. Amant

Professor and Eunice C. Williamson Endowed Chair of Technical Communication, Louisiana Tech University

PARALLEL SESSION I (11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

Panel 1

Lecture Hall 238

Historical, Linguistic, and Global Literacies

Chair: Mysti Rudd, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Global Literacies in STEM Programs and the Engineering Workplace in Qatar

Leslie Seawright, Northwestern University in Qatar

Amy Hodges, Texas A&M University at Qatar

Listening to the Past: What Paul Hanna and the Liberal Arts Can Tell Us Today

Lynn Burlbaw, Texas A&M University, USA

Writing in Information Systems (IS): Understanding and Scaffolding Expectations Through Collaboration Between Applied Linguistics and IS Faculty

Silvia Pessoa, Carnegie-Mellon University in Qatar

Panel 2

Lecture Hall 144

Refugees and Immigrants, Part I

Chair: Michael Telafici, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Impossible or Diluted Neutrality: International Humanitarian Organizations in Internal Armed Conflicts

Rajeesh Kumar, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India

Mothing on the Refugee Trail: Narratives of Local Efforts Making a Global Difference

Maria Lombard, *Northwestern University in Qatar*

Beyond Labour Migration: The Making of Migrant Entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia

Md Mizanur Rahman, *University Brunei Darussalam*

Panel 3
Room 148G

Identity, Self-Determination, Sovereignty, and International Affairs

Chair: Sara Hillman, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Football in the Desert? Qatar's World Cup, National Identity, and the British Broadsheet Press

Ross Griffin, *Qatar University*

Local Politics With a Global Reach: Self-Determination, Immigration, and Foreign Land Acquisitions

Torsten Menge, *Northwestern University in Qatar*

The Trumping of the Gulf States Conflict — Trumpian Style

Carol Lafferty, *Community College of Qatar*

LUNCH (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

PARALLEL SESSION II (1:30 – 3 p.m.)

Panel 4

Lecture Hall 238

Refugees and Immigrants, Part II

Chair: Deanna Rasmussen, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Local Solutions to Global Problems: Immigrant Communities, Labor Recruitment, and the “Crisis of Care” in Advanced Economies

Fumilayo Showers, *Central Connecticut University*

The New Culture on the Block: Bashful Battle of Togetherness or Solid in Solidarity?

Stacey Showers, *Ealing Borough Council, United Kingdom*

Panel 5

Lecture Hall 143

Environmental Disasters and Lessons

Chair: Hasan Mahmud, *Northwestern University in Qatar*

Discourse of Sustainable Development for Environmental Sustainability

M. Anwar Hossen, *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Institutionalization of Disaster Management Study and Research from Social Science Perspectives in Bangladesh: A Shift of Paradigm

Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, *Bangladesh Open University and Dhaka University*

Climate Change and the Liberal Arts: Local Teaching, Global Solutions

Jocelyn Sage Mitchell and Christopher Spearshott, *Northwestern University in Qatar*

Panel 6
Room 148G

Building and Dividing Communities on the World Wide Web

Chair: Philip Gray, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

The Role of Online Programs in Building a Global Community

Radhika Viruru, *Texas A&M University, USA*

Social Media Discourse and Terrorism: Critical Analysis of the Islamic State's Social Media Practices

Mohammedwesam Amer, *Newcastle University, United Kingdom*

BOARD BUS FOR HOTEL (3 p.m.)



DAY 2 | Monday, 5 February

Coffee and Networking (8:30 – 9 a.m.) Area outside Lecture Hall 238

Keynote Address (9 – 10:15 a.m.) Lecture Hall 238

Education for Sustainable Development: The Interdisciplinary Imperative for STEM Education

Michael de Miranda

Professor, Claude H. Everett, Jr. Endowed Chair, and Head of the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture at Texas A&M University, USA

PARALLEL SESSION III (10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)

Panel 7

Lecture Hall 238

Education in Qatar

Chair: Zohreh Eslami, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Language Policies in Education in Qatar Between 2003 and 2012

Eiman Mustafawi, *Qatar University*

Learning Languages Beyond Global English in the State of Qatar

Sara Hillman, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Teaching Math Through Culturally Relevant Storytelling in Qatar

Sadia Mir, *Virginia Commonwealth University at Qatar*

An Analysis of Common Sources of Grade Inflation in Foundation Programs: Pitfalls and Elucidations

Navid Rahmani, *Community College of Qatar*

Panel 8

Lecture Hall 143

Global Humanitarianism and the Need for Localization: Ethical and Normative Perspectives

Chair: Hassan Bashir, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

The Capacities of Crisis-affected Populations: Global Norms, Local Actors

Joost Herman, *Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands*

Humanitarian Innovation: Risk or Benefit for Local Populations?

Andrej Zwitter, *Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands*

Achieving Aid Effectiveness through Localized Humanitarian Diplomacy

Mike Clark, *Convoy of Hope, USA*

State Sovereignty and Access to Persons Affected by Wars and Disasters

Hans-Joachim Heintze, *Ruhr Universitat, Bochum, Germany*

Glocalizing Humanitarianism: Bringing in Local Knowledges
in Conversation with the Global Knowledge on Humanitarianism

Naseem Ayaz and Adeela Arshad-Ayaz, *Concordia University,
Montreal, Canada*

Panel 9

Lecture Hall 144

Comparative Histories, Comparative Religions

Chair: James Rogers, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Religion in the Building of Nations — The Role of the Polish Czystochowa
and Palestinian Nabi Musa Pilgrimages in the Transition from Empire
to Nation-State, 1918-1939

Peter Polak-Springer, *Qatar University*

The Position of Jerusalem in the Peace Negotiations between Sultan Salah
al-Din and King Richard I (the Lion-Heart)

Maher Abu-Munshar, *Qatar University*

Khaleeji Cultural Challenges to Western Research into Arab Gulf History

Mark C. Gleason, *Community College of Qatar*

The Undeclared Alliances: British and Nazi in Support of Jewish State
in Palestine, the Case of The Haavara Agreement and the Partition
of Palestine

Farid Al-Salim, *Qatar University*

LUNCH (12:15 – 1:15 p.m.)

PARALLEL SESSION IV (1:15 – 3 p.m.)

Panel 10

Lecture Hall 238

(De)Constructing Identities in Online Discourses: Between Conflict and Peaceful Co-existence

Chair: Paul Lee, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Proximity in Online Discourses: Uniting or Dividing?

Monika Kopytowska and Lukasz Grabowski, *University of Lodz/
University of Opole, Poland*

Digital Discourses of Conflicts and Identity in the Middle East: Doing Critical Discourse Study on Participatory Web Spaces

Majid Khosravinik, *Newcastle University, United Kingdom*

Deconstructing On-line Hate Speech, Building Counter-Narratives

Fabienne Baider, *University of Cyprus*

Women, Power and Hate: Towards a Critical Approach to Discourses of Online Misogyny

Eleonora Esposito, *Sultan Qaboos University*
Majid Khosravinik, *Newcastle University, United Kingdom*

Incivility and Aggression as Driving Forces in Group Identity Emergence in Online Conflict Discourses

Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszcyk, *State University of Applied
Sciences, University of Lodz, Poland*

Panel 11

Lecture Hall 143

Racial Ideology and Memory

Chair: Sherry Ward, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

The Global, the Local, and African Literature: Examining the Politics of Cosmopolitanism

Portia Owusu, *University of Kent, United Kingdom*

Flying High: Black Aviators' Global Ambitions before the Tuskegee Airmen

Jan Benes, *Texas A&M University, USA, and Masaryk University*

National and International Impacts of Interracial Connections and Colorblind Racial Ideology

Vanessa Gonlin, *Texas A&M University, USA*

The Post-Southern Imposture: Recovering Public Memory Through Personal Recollection

Sally Schutz, *Texas A&M University, USA*

Panel 12
Lecture Hall 144

Undergraduate Panel 1: What do the Liberal Arts Mean to Me? Undergraduate Researchers' Reflections on STEAM Projects

Chair: Amy Hodges, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Participating Presenters

Alaa Abdulla, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Safin Bayes, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Sofian Ghazali, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Midhat Javiad, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Abdullah Yousef, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

BOARD BUS FOR HOTEL (3 p.m.)

DAY 3 | Tuesday, 6 February

Coffee and Networking (8:30 – 9 a.m.) Area outside Lecture Hall 238

Keynote Address (9 – 10:15 a.m.) Lecture Hall 238

Social Science Scholarship in a Turbulent Middle East

Mehran Kamrava

*Professor and Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies,
Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar*

PARALLEL SESSION V (10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)

Panel 13

Lecture Hall 238

(In)Security and Everyday Life in the Middle East

Chair: Giulia El Dardiry, *McGill University, Canada*

Sami Hermez, *Northwestern University in Qatar*

Securing Lifeworlds in the Non-Protected Era: Cases from the Arab Levant

Estella Capri, *University College London*

Gendered (IN)Security: The Life and Death of Palestinian Women

Suhad Daher-Nashif, *Qatar University*

**Seeing One's Feet: Middle East Refugees and the Search for Stability
from Qatar to the USA**

Giulia El Dardiry, *McGill University*

War is Coming: Between Past and Future Violence in Lebanon

Sami Hermez, *Northwestern University in Qatar*

Panel 14

Lecture Hall 144

Local Lives and Global Discourse in the Gulf:

Gender, Religion, and Nationalism in the Arabian Peninsula

Chair: Reem Meshal, *Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar*

Hyper-Sharia and the New Muslim

Wafa al-Aiyadi, *Hamad Bin Khalifa University*

International Teacher Education

Zarqa Parvez, *Qatar University*

The Making and Unmaking of Khaliji Identity

Mohammed Fakhro, *Hamad Bin Khalifa University*

Zubarah as Spectacle: The Construction of Historical Narrative in Qatar

Abdulrahman al-Thani, *Hamad Bin Khalifa University*

Panel 15
Room 148G

Undergraduate Panel 2. Diversity Consciousness: Analyzing the Challenges Faced by Minority Groups in the Stem Fields

Chair: Aymen Elsheikh, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Women in Tech: An Analysis of the Gender Divide in Silicon Valley

Omar Al Sharif, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

Gender Divide in Qatar: Analysis, Causes, and Effects

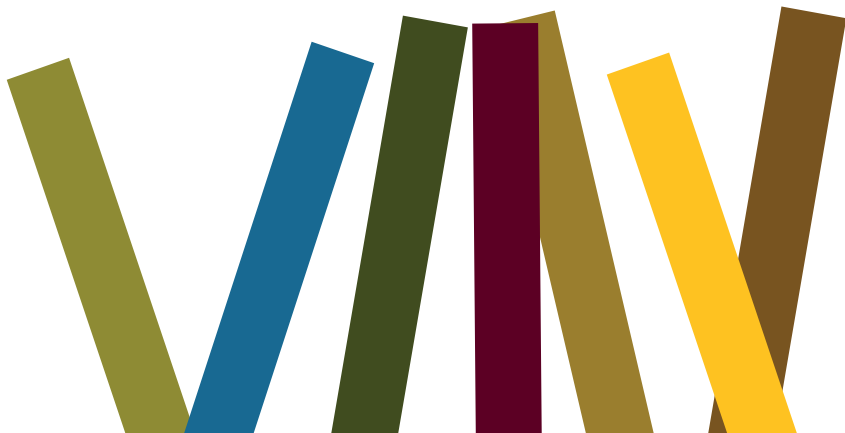
Skander Helali, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

The Influence and Challenges of Asian Engineers in the U.S.

Kenana Dalle, *Texas A&M University at Qatar*

**CLOSING REMARKS AND CONFERENCE WRAP-UP
(12:15 – 12:30 p.m.)**

BOARD BUS FOR HOTEL (12:30 p.m.)



Keynote Address | 4 February

Of Infrastructures and Friction Points: Examining the Dynamics of International Online Education in the Age of Globalization

Kirk St. Amant

Professor and Eunice C. Williamson Endowed Chair of Technical Communication, Louisiana Tech University

The global diffusion of information communication technologies (ICTs) has changed the nature of education. By freeing instructors and students from the confines of space and place, online media now allow students from around the world to convene in online classrooms and engage in truly global contexts. As with all new developments, however, the globalization of online education brings with it as many pitfalls as it does opportunities. Failure to identify and address the potential problems associated with such contexts can mitigate prospective benefits or even lead to disaster. Educators in a range of fields involving language, communication, and literacy can thus benefit from approaches that help identify and understand prospective problem areas associated with offering online education to students distributed across the globe.

This presentation will identify approaches educators and university, college, or school administrators can use to understand this new educational context. As such, the presentation will first overview how international demand for online education is poised to grow in the future. Next, the presenter will review how the current metaphor many individuals use to think about and talk about this context needs revision to help them better conceptualize the new educational environment of international cyberspace. The presenter will then overview two central, over-arching areas educators must understand and address to avoid potential problems associated with offering online instruction to globally dispersed students via online media. This approach helps individuals gain an understanding of the current global context of online education. Educators can then use this understanding to structure online classes to avoid prospective problems and provide more effective educational opportunities for online students located in different nations.

Keynote Address | 5 February

Education for Sustainable Development: The Interdisciplinary Imperative for STEM Education

Michael de Miranda

Professor, Claude H. Everett, Jr. Endowed Chair, and Head of the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture, Texas A&M University, USA

A sustainable future for all societies will require a fundamental rethinking of the “Educational Life Blocks” from a traditional linear learning progression towards a more multiplexed model of learning. In the critical areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning, it is imperative that students cognitively integrate and apply learned STEM principles through authentic application found in collaborative design, making, inquiry and problem solving processes. The global emphasis on STEM education relies heavily on the active learning nature of culturally appropriate engineering and technology rich curricula. This address will help conference participants think carefully about how inventive approaches to integrating iSTEM and iDesign principles into new

learned content will build a new literacy termed STEM association fluency in a new generation of learners.

Keynote Address | 6 February

Social Science Scholarship in a Turbulent Middle East

Mehran Kamrava

Professor and Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar

Critical inquiry in the social sciences has been under assault for some time. But under the current circumstances, this assault has been particularly pernicious in both the United States and in the Middle East. Currently, a number of Middle Eastern countries are experiencing resurgent authoritarianism while others are undergoing civil conflict and war. Additionally the rupture in relations between the six GCC monarchies creates profound difficulties for scholars and doctoral students working in or on the Persian Gulf. Given these conditions, it is important for the academic community to engage in a meaningful discussion on how best to support objective, open, safe, and ethical fieldwork. Senior academics and scholars bear a particular responsibility in ensuring that proper contexts for research and scholarly explorations are provided for younger academics, especially for graduate students and doctoral candidates, in whose hands the future of the social science disciplines rest. Such scholars cannot abdicate responsibility, or to engage in self-censorship, because of pressures from politicians, university administrators eager to please funders and benefactors, talking heads on television or pundits in the blogosphere, or the broader social and cultural environments within which they operate.



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